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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/065,864	11/26/2002	Yoshiyuki Karahashi	24NS125784	3387

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EXAMINER

PARDO, THUY N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2165

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/065,864

Applicant(s)

KARAHASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Thuy Pardo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's Amendment filed on May 04, 2005 in response to Examiner's Office Action has been reviewed. Claims 1, 10 and 17 have been amended.

2. Claims 1-21 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over **Cochran** U.S. Patent No. 5,995,979, in view of **Waugh et al.** (Hereinafter "Waugh") U.S. Patent No. 6,473,898.

As to claim 1, Cochran teaches the invention substantially as claimed, comprising a database for storing parameter value data [storing parameters "Start of Travel": January-March, April-June, July-October, October-December... in "Travel search database", 211 of fig. 3b]; and

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a web-based interface for accessing the stored parameter value data [button “search”, 500 of fig. 3b].

However, Cochran does not explicitly teach automatically provide notification of modification to the parameter value data although it has the same functionality of updating lists of search terms (or parameters) [update the list of search terms that are then available for the next category, col. 3, lines 50-52]. Waugh teaches providing notification of modification to the parameter value data [see change Sku Info: “Add” or “Remove”, fig. 2E; fig. 1-3; ab; col. 2, lines 57 to col. 3, lines 4].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Data Processing art at the time of the invention to add this feature of Waugh to the system of Cochran as an essential means that enables the users can see choices in multiple lists before deciding which search term from which list best meets their interest.

As to claim 2, Cochran and Waugh teach the invention substantially as claimed. Waugh further teaches that the database is configured to store modified parameter value data [col. 2, lines 57 to col. 3, lines 4].

As to claim 3, Cochran and Waugh teach the invention substantially as claimed. Cochran further teaches a second database for storing finalized parameter value data [col. 6, lines 40-52].

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As to claim 4, Cochran and Waugh teach the invention substantially as claimed. Cochran further teaches a conversion component for converting the parameter value data between a format for storing in the database and a format for access using the web-based interface [ab].

As to claim 5, Cochran and Waugh teach the invention substantially as claimed, with the exception of parameter values for a boiling water reactor power plant cycle. However, this is a matter of a design choice. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Data Processing art at the time of the invention to add this feature to the system in order to allow for capacity to access data for different plans.

As to claim 6, Cochran and Waugh teach the invention substantially as claimed, with the exception of email notification. However, this feature is well known and well-applied in many operations of the computer system such as auto-replies in Microsoft Outlook of Window NT, Customer Receipt/Purchase Confirmation emails when shopping in Internet... etc. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Data Processing art at the time of the invention to add this feature to the system in order to reduce time and errors.

As to claim 8, Cochran and Waugh teach the invention substantially as claimed. Cochran further teaches providing different levels of user access to the parameter value data [col. 3, lines 17-24; col. 12, lines 17-24].

As to claim 14, Cochran and Waugh teach the invention substantially as claimed. Cochran further teaches that parameter values are configured as a parameter list displayed as part of a spreadsheet for access by a user [fig. 4].

As to claims 7, 9-13, 15-21, all limitations of these claims have been addressed in the analysis above, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy Pardo, whose telephone number is 571-272-4082. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin, can be reached at 571-272-4146.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned as follows: 571-273-8300 (Official Communication)

and/or:

571-273-4082 (*Use this Fax#, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "Draft" communication. Examiner may request that a formal/amendment be faxed directly to then on occasions*).

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Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

5. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 308-5359, (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

July 22, 2005



**THUY N. PARDO
PRIMARY EXAMINER**